

The Groundplane

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

September 2008

Volume 9 Issue 9

Bill, WB9YVM — Editor

Fremont, Ca.

President's Corner

We're in the later part of the year. Field Day is behind us and it's time to start thinking about things like the Xmas party, and oh yeah – elections! There was a board meeting held recently where this and many other topics were discussed. See Al's articles to get a feel for some of the other ideas that were tossed around.

We have a lot of ambitious plans for the club, but there are two things that it takes to make these things happen. The club needs leadership and new blood to stay vibrant. Some of these activities are aimed at building a more interesting SBARA and interesting new members along the way. That takes care of one of the two items, but the leadership angle still needs to be covered. If we fill the leadership positions with new folks with new ideas, then we are at the top of our game.

If you haven't figured it out yet, this is really an appeal to get some of you folks to come forward to help on the board. We are looking to put together a slate of candidates with some fresh faces.

Often, people are afraid to commit because they don't know what the job requires. So maybe I can describe what my role as El Presidente has involved. Obviously, the first job requirement is

to stand in front of the rest of you and run through our meeting format. Another is to attend board meetings (on that average one every month or so...) I've also had the duty of trying to arrange speakers the last two years. Note that this is hopefully going to disappear as we organize the interest groups Al is writing about. That is really about it. Oh –one last thing. You get to have your picture taken with whoever wins the Raffle prize on Field Day.

So if you think you can take an evening a month out of your schedule to make a board meeting along with coming to the regular club meetings, you've got the time to be the President. So the only real question is – will you be willing to step forward and get involved!

This month we are meeting on **September 12 at 7:30pm at Hurricane Electric**. Our speaker will be **Mark Edleman** with **Playing @ Learning** who will be speaking about the **First League Robotics Tournaments**. Mark is the Northern CA organizer for these tournaments and is responsible for the Robotics programs at several of our local schools. We'll have the normal pre-meeting dinner beginning at **6pm at Wok City**.

73 de Steve KA6S



**September is
Emergency
Prep month—
do you have
your Kit and
Plan developed
yet?**

Inside this issue:

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September—Emergency Prep Month

Would you be ready if there were an emergency? Be prepared: assemble an emergency supply kit, make your emergency plans, stay informed, and be involved in helping your family, your business, and your community to be ready.

Throughout September there will be activities across the country to promote emergency preparedness. Over 1,300 organizations – national, regional, and local public and private organizations – are supporting emergency preparedness efforts and encouraging all Americans to take action.

You can join the effort by following 3 steps:

- [Get a kit.](#)
- [Make a plan.](#)
- [Be informed.](#)

September 2007 marks the fourth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security. One goal of Homeland Security is to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, mass casualties, biological and chemical threats, radiation emergencies, and terrorist attacks.

During September, emergency preparedness will focus on:

- Back-to-school (*Ready Kids*), September 1-8
- Business preparedness (*Ready Business*), September 9-15
- Multicultural preparedness (*Listo*), September 16-22
- Home and family preparedness, including pets, older Americans, and individuals with disabilities and special needs (*Ready America*), September 22-30

As part of National Preparedness Month, CDC has launched a new Web site, [Emergency Preparedness and You](#). CDC has teamed up with the American Red Cross to identify and answer common questions about preparing for unexpected events. The information guides you in:

- [Developing a family disaster plan](#)
- [Gathering emergency supplies](#)
- [Learning how to shelter in place](#)
- [Understanding quarantine and isolation](#)
- [Learning how to maintain a healthy state of mind](#)

Additional information and resources are available from [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) under topics such as hurricane preparedness, extreme heat, and bioterrorism. CDC continually updates information on recent outbreaks and incidents and lists emergency resources for the general public as well as for clinicians and public health professionals.

Are you prepared? During September, focus on being ready – at home, at work, and in your community – and prepare for a natural disaster or other emergency.

Get an Emergency Kit—An emergency kit includes the basics for survival: fresh water, food, clean air, and warmth. You should have enough supplies to survive for at least three days. Review the items recommended for a [disaster supplies kit](#) or print the [Homeland Security Emergency Supply checklist](#) ( 2 pages, 209 KB).
Make an Emergency Plan

Make plans with your family and friends in case you're not together during an emergency. Discuss how you'll contact each other, where you'll meet, and what you'll do in different situations. Read how to develop a [family disaster plan](#) or fill out the [Homeland Security Family Emergency Plan](#) ( 2 pages, 645 KB).

Ask about planning at your workplace and your child's school or daycare center. The [US Department of Education](#) gives guidelines for school preparedness. Workers at small, medium, and large businesses should practice for emergencies of all kinds. See [Ready Business](#) for more information.

Be Informed—Being prepared means staying informed. Check all types of media – Web sites, newspapers, radio, TV, mobile and land phones – for global, national and local information. During an emergency, your local Emergency Management or Emergency Services office will give you information on such things as open shelters and evacuation orders. Check [Ready America community and state information](#) to learn about resources in your community.

September Treasurers Report —By, Bernhard Hailer

Dear Member,

Your treasurer has been out of town during the article deadline for Groundplane issue 7/2008 (vacation in KH6, but no, its not true that he took SBARA's money for his trip to Hawaii - but it was tempting :-), and Groundplane issue 8/2008 was not published because our Newsletter Editor also went on a well deserved vacation. So this is the first treasurer report after three month! It will talk about the present status of SBARA's treasure, and about the future. A lot of things to discuss!

Present

Let's start with the current status. Things are going well, however we still haven't completely settled all expenses for Fieldday 2008 and the income from last years Zucchini Festival. I expect to conclude both during the upcoming meeting. At the end we will have a nice balance. In the next issue of our Groundplane we will look further into this, I might be able to show you some detailed statistics about Fieldday expenses and income, and about the Zucchini Festivals 2007 and 2008.

Our current account states a balance of \$4,549.51, with an additional \$302.-- pending for deposit.

We spent \$1,485.80 and received \$727.18 since my last report (see GP 6/2008).

SBARA currently holds Certificates of Deposits over a total of \$3,636.81.

Future I

As you can see above, your club has put quite some money aside. As you also can see the Presidents Corner article in this issue, SBARA has big plans. One of it: we are working on a remotely controlled HF station, accessible by our club members only. A group will be formed which will do the planning and the actual work on the project. SBARA can afford a nice station. The first questions to work on are:

Who wants to work on buiding it?

What's the wishlist, how much of it is feasible?

What is already available on the market or as public domain which could help us with this project?

Where can the HF radio be set up so that it suits the needs of SBARA's members?

How can the data stream be fed to the HF station?

What will be the milestones to be achieved? E.g. add an amplifier at a later time?

If you are interested in helping in this fascinating project, please contact your board. I certainly will participate.

Future II

Elections for the SBARA board for next year are coming up. I have decided not to run as your treasurer again: there is a possibility that I will return to Germany some time next year (this will be very hard for me!). I don't want to leave SBARA in the middle of the year without a chance to bring the future treasurer up to speed, and so I decided to step down at the end of this year.

There is a second task the current treasurer holds at the moment: the membership database maintenance. This job also needs to go to a new volunteer - it should no longer stay with the treasurer. The future Treasurer will have to be in constant contact with the future Membership Chairman, so that treasure and database can remain in a good state all time.

I believe I have automated both tasks well enough to minimize the work required to keep both up and running. Spreadsheets and database files developed under OpenOffice help a lot. Nevertheless these tasks consume time - but it is a very rewarding thing to work on them. If you are interested in a job on the SBARA board: now is the time to speak up! Again, please don't be shy to approach your board. The board needs you!

73!

Bernhard, AE6YN

SBARA Forming Special Interest Groups — By Al Rendon, WT6K

What aspects of Amateur Radio are you interested in? Which facets of the hobby are you most knowledgeable and therefore able to share your knowledge with other SBARA members?

For 2009 the SBARA Board of Directors is planning to restructure the club around “Interest Groups” that will share the meeting time and even be encouraged to bring speakers to talk about topic in their interest group.

For example, if your passion is ARES/CERTS, you can form an Emergency Communications Interest Group and organize time at a membership meeting, even providing the speaker for the evening.

The areas of interest in our hobby are extensive and almost limitless. The board of directors brainstormed a list but by no means it all-inclusive.

Emergency Communications

T-Hunting
Satellite
Digital modes
Home Brewing
DX'ing
Contesting
VE Testing
Mentoring (Elmer)
CW

WHAT'S NEW?

And the list goes on.

Here is an opportunity to get in on the ground floor and have a ‘springboard’ within SBARA for you and others with similar interest to feature your amateur radio passion. So, get together and form a core interest group. You can do it by yourself or with another ham that shares the same passion. It doesn't need to be a big group to start. The board predicts that once you start talking about your interest at the meetings others will be joining you and your “Interest Group” will grow.

SBARA Dinner Location, Meeting Nights

There will be our traditional 6:00pm pre-meeting dinner located at:

Wok City Diner 46531 Mission Blvd. Fremont. Their phone number is **490-3344**

Before the Monthly meeting. Food is Chinese style mild to spicy hot. We always

have a crowd plus, lots of ham radio goodies are discussed that are not part of the normal SBARA monthly meeting!

We would invite you to Come and Join Us !!!

Latitude: 37.53306°N

Longitude: 121.91917°W

2008 Zucchini Festival Support – Thank You to all the Volunteers

.This year's Zucchini Festival fundraiser was a big success thanks to all of you who signed up and work a shift for SBARA.

The Leadership team thanks each and every one of the volunteers who supported this SBARA fundraising event.

Without your support we would not have been able to staff thirty-two shifts at the festival!

Please come to the September 12th SBARA membership meeting and see which of the volunteers wins the Garmin c550 GPS.

Thanks you again for all the support.

SBARA Leadership Team

SBARA Remote HF Club Station for Members Use

The SBARA Board of Directors has formed a planning committee to make recommendations on how to best implement a remote operated club HF station for members to get on HF.

The committee will be charted with the job to determine the best way to create the station and estimate the costs, both initial and ongoing.

Your SBARA committee members are:

Steve Wilson – KA6S

Sam Severs – WS6S

Umesh Ghodke – K6VUG

Bernhard Hailer – AE6YN

Al Rendon – WT6K

In the months to come you will be hearing the recommendations and plans for the remotely operated station. Keep tuned in!

SBARA Leadership Team

Emergency Communications Month—ARRL QST, September Issue

Are you an ARRL member?

According to our membership database most of the SBARA members also belong to the ARRL (SBARA is actually affiliated with the American Radio Relay League).

Well: if you have to renew your ARRL membership, hand the renewal request over to your treasurer, along with a check with the membership payment, payable to SBARA instead of the ARRL. Your

benefit: no hassle with the annoying paperwork.

SBARA's benefit: the club can keep \$2 per renewal.

So help SBARA and yourself - send the renewal request and the check to our P.O.Box 8401 in Fremont, CA 94538 and send the treasurer an e-mail (currently: "ae6yn at arrl dot net"). This ensures he will go to the P.O.Box in time.

Thanks and 73!

Bernhard, AE6YN

30 Ham Radio Contesting Tips — By Scot K9JY

1. [Schedule your Contests](#). The really great thing about contesting is they are regularly scheduled — regardless of great propagation, DXpeditions or the mood of the sun.
2. [Create a contest goal](#). Goals are good and help motivate you while participating.
3. [Contest on your terms](#). Contest for and be motivated by your reasons. Not everyone is out to win the contest; it could be you want to learn a new mode.
4. [Have an operating plan](#). Having a plan provides you guidance for the contest and a baseline to compare against reality in the midst of battle.
5. [Test equipment before the contest](#). You do want your stuff to work, right?
6. [Update Multiplier Files](#). Downloading the latest ensures you won't miss a juicy multiplier during the contest.
7. [Read the contest rules](#). You'd be surprised how often this bites you — even experienced contesters.
8. [Work a contest one month before the real contest](#). The sun rotates once a month (27 days)...so work a contest the month before to experience the propagation you will have before the one you really want to concentrate on later.
9. [Test ergonomics](#). Sitting in a chair contesting a long while will test how well your station is laid out for operating.
10. [Have a guest op checklist](#). What should you bring as a guest op?
11. [Compete with a partner](#). Work a contest with someone in your club (together or at your individual stations). Discuss what worked and what didn't about the contest.
12. [Review Newsletter for Contest DXpeditions](#). Lots of people travel for contests. Make sure you take a look at the list from your favorite ham radio newsletter.
13. [Have propagation plan](#). Propagation programs can suggest what will be open where. Having a propagation plan can give you a guide while contesting.
14. [Filter your packet connection](#). If the contest allows packet, filter the connection to match up with your station.
15. [Accurate logging](#). A contest is about working stations — and logging them accurately. If you don't you get penalized.
16. [Send in your log](#). Even if you didn't work many stations, you can help the contest by sending in your log to help enable log checking.
17. [Logbook of The World](#). Want to reduce your QSL'ing chores for contests? Submit your log to Logbook of The World for instant confirmations for you and the people you contact.
18. [Review UBN's](#). Uniques, Busted, and Not in the Log. It's how your log is viewed for accuracy.
19. [Have a QSL System](#). Even if you use Log of the World, testers get a lot of QSL card requests. Have a system for processing them.
20. [Use a grey line map](#). Grey line propagation is the cat's meow. Having a visual representation of where the grey line is right now can help you point your antennas the right way.
21. [Learn a single band](#). Want to learn propagation on a band fast? Do a contest on a single band. You'll learn.
22. [Challenge your operating skill with QRP](#). Get frustrated fast. Operate a contest QRP from your station. Then learn how to get through the mess for points. It will make you a better operator.
23. [Do an After Action Review](#). Did we achieve our goal, what went right, what could be improved. Record the results for the next contest.
24. [Join a contesting club](#). Amp up your contesting knowledge and motivation.
25. [Learn from contesting pros](#). They are out there. They can teach you a lot.
26. [Leverage your strengths](#). Great CW operator? Great antennas? Whatever your strength, leverage it for the contest.
27. [Go on a contesting DXpedition](#). Even if it is to a different state. It's a very different experience and will teach you a lot.
28. [Practice CW before contests](#). Notice how much better you are at CW at the end of the contest compared to the start? You need to practice before the contest.
29. [Participate on a contesting team](#). Many contests offer team (versus club) entries. Join a team to up your motivation for the contest.
30. [Find joy in contesting](#). It's there. You know it. Go find it.

There are many more contesting tips, of course. But thirty to start out the fall contesting season seemed like the right number for me. I had great fun writing these. Enjoy the resource.

Scot, K9JY

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),

There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast there! Just

send a „bk“ and your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, Al, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

September Contests — ARRL

September 13 - 15 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

September 20 - 21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

September 20 - 21 ARRL International EME Competition



PACIFICON 2008, The West Coast ham radio convention, will take place Friday, October 17th through Sunday, October 19th, 2008 at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel at 2600 Bishop Drive in San Ramon, California.

Have you purchased your tickets yet?

Go to www.pacificon.org to register.

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
633 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaham@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Blvd., 91506
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- 40 memories
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Association**
Founded 1974
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Open Position

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Douglas Wilson, KG6RHG

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email: AD6ZH@ARRL.NET
<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM
MAP N37 19.490 W122
00.568

CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



Club Classifieds
List your items
for sale or trade
here.

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to ARRL@WB9YVM before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter.

Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please.

Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months.

Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.



Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is
September 12th. Starting at 7:30pm

Our meeting location is at Hurricane
Electric. The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the
meeting and bring your HT !!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

**Come and join us for dinner at Wok City
Diner at 6PM**

Details in this Newsletter!!

The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
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